

SCHOOL BOARD FINANCIAL WORKSHOP

GADSDEN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MAX D. WALKER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
35 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BLVD.
QUINCY, FLORIDA

July 23, 2024

4:30 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mrs. Karema D. Dudley, Chairwoman, Mr. Leroy McMillan, Ms. Cathy S. Johnson, and Mr. Steve Scott. Also present were Mr. Elijah Key, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board, Ms. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others. Mr. Charlie D. Frost was absent.

1. Call To Order

The workshop was called to order by the Chairwoman, Mrs. Karema D. Dudley, at 4:32 p.m.

2. Financial Information

Mrs. Bruner shared with the Board a brief overview of the proposed tentative budget for the 2024 – 2025 year. She stated that the required local effort (RLE) including the prior period adjustment millage was 3.1390. She stated that the basic discretionary operating expenses were 0.7480. She stated that the basic discretionary capital outlay was 1.5000. She stated that the total millage to be levied was 5.3870. She stated that the total expenditures, transfers and balances were \$104,862,717.22. She stated that the proposed operating budget expenditures of the School Board of Gadsden County are 26.8% more than last year's total operating expenditures. She stated that the final budget hearing will be held September 3rd.

Ms. Johnson inquired about Mrs. Bruner's access to all the district's accounts and things being caught up in the finance department, Mrs. Bruner stated that the finance department is working hard to continue to pay bills and clean up. She stated that the proposed tentative budget will be posted in the newspaper. Ms. Johnson stated that it would have been nice to compare the budget from last year to this year. Mrs. Dudley requested a copy of the current banking account information. Mr. Key stated that a lot of clean up information is still going on in the finance department. Mr. Scott inquired about the district's fund balance remaining above 3%.

3. Facilities Update

Mr. Johnny Riley shared with the Board the following facilities update: 1) Stewart Street Elementary School HVAC insulation. Building #4 fully operational and clean up in progress; 2) Stewart Street Elementary building #3 HVAC unit charging with Freon; 3) Stewart Street Elementary School building #4 HVAC unit parts are in place, although ahead of schedule, do not anticipate starting on this unit until the first of September; 4) playground equipment – installation of the playground equipment is behind schedule due to a backing of equipment on order, the district is working with Pro Playground to ensure ESSER 3 expenditures meet the deadlines; 5) grounds care – grounds crew and outside contractors are cutting grass every day, in spite of the rain; the maintenance department's goal is to ensure that the grass at all school sites are cut, groomed and ready for back-to-school meetings and the first day of school; new furniture replacement from Havana Magnet School to Stewart Street Elementary School; new furniture replacement from West Gadsden Middle School to James A. Shanks Middle School; and new furniture replacement from Gadsden County High School to Stewart Street Elementary School.

Ms. Johnson inquired about painting at the schools. Mr. Riley stated that painting is done as needed. He stated that pressure washing is done as needed by the custodians at the school. Ms. Johnson inquired about the AC unit at Havana Magnet School. Mr. Riley stated that staff is working as needed on the AC unit at Havana Magnet School, and when the work is completed at Stewart Street Elementary School, the staff will work more in Havana.

4. Educational Items by the Superintendent

Mr. Key stated that there might be a slight increase in the school grading scale. He stated that some schools will probably drop a letter grade. He stated that the district will need to wait and see which grading scale is voted on by the State Board of Education.

Mr. Key stated that Ms. Sophia Grandison requested the Board rescind her resignation. He stated that the Lamier contract is funded out of Title I funds and not the general fund. He stated that Special Board Meeting needed to be rescheduled from July 29th to July 30th for the proposed tentative budget hearing.

5. School Board Requests and Concerns

Ms. Johnson invited everyone to One Gadsden Foundation, Inc. Back-to-School and Community Resource Fair on August 11th from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Old Havana Northside High School. She stated that everyone should always remember that children are first. She paraphrased " Every Child, Every Family, Every Teacher, Every Support Staff, Every School, and Everybody Understand That Children Are First".

In response to Mr. Scott's question whether there any other changes to personnel at Gadsden County High School, Mr. Key stated that interviews are taking place for the high school principal. Mr. Scott inquired about employee insurance, Mr. Key stated that the insurance committee needed to meet. He stated that there might be a 8.4% increase in health insurance.

Ms. Johnson invited everyone to the Second Harvest Food Drive on August 2nd beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Havana Community Development Center.

6. The workshop adjourned at 5:03 p.m.